



# YOUTH AND TOBACCO

**Each day, more than 3,000 young people begin to smoke or more than 1 million each year. Of these, one third will die from disease related to tobacco use.**

*(FDA, 1997)*

**Smoking kills 434,000 Americans each year more than alcohol, illegal drugs, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fire, and AIDS...combined!**

*(U.S. Centers for Disease Control, 1996)*

**More than half of all smokers begin smoking before age 14, 90% begin by age 19.**

*(U.S.D.H.S., Publication Number 92-3316, 1991)*

**If people do not begin to use tobacco as youngsters, they are highly unlikely to begin smoking as adults.**

*(FDA Fact Sheet #1, 1995)*

**Cigarette sales to youth under age 18 generate revenue of \$1.26 billion.**

*(JAMA, 1990:263)*

**Old Joe, the cartoon camel used to advertise Camel cigarettes is as familiar to children (aged 3 to 6 years) as Mickey Mouse.**

*(Fischer, P., et al., JAMA, 1991:266)*

**Over 70% of high school students have tried cigarette smoking.**

*(CDC, MMWR Surveillance Summaries, September 27, 1996)*

**About half of adolescent smokers have parents who smoke.**

*(Moss, DHHS, 1992)*

**Over 70% of daily teen smokers who think they won't be smoking in 5 years are still smoking 7 years later.**

*(A Report of the Surgeon General—FDA, 1996)*

**A higher percentage of teenage girls start smoking than teenage boys, and have more difficulty quitting as they reach adulthood.**

*(Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights, 1989)*

**Over 70% of underage smokers were not asked to show proof of age when they bought cigarettes in stores.**

*(CDC, MMWR Surveillance Summary, September 27, 1996)*